



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Complaint About a Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judge
(Labor Code §123.6 and Title 8, Cal. Code Regs. §9722.1)

Date: _____

Your name: _____ Your telephone number: _____

Your address: _____

Your attorney's name (if any): _____

Your attorney's telephone number: _____

Judge's name: _____

Name of your case and WCAB case number: _____

In the space below, please specify exactly what action or behavior
of the judge you believe is an ethical violation.
Please provide relevant dates and the names of others present.
Use additional sheets if needed.

It may be a felony to make or cause to be made any knowingly false or fraudulent material statements in support of, or in opposition to, any claim for workers' compensation benefits. Your signature below indicates that you have read and understood the above statement.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Return to: Department of Industrial Relations
Workers' Compensation Ethics Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 420603
San Francisco, CA 94142

Note: Filing a complaint with the Ethics Advisory Committee is NOT a Petition for Reconsideration or Appeal of an Award or Order.

Judges and Judicial Ethics

All Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judges must follow the California Code of Judicial Ethics. A copy of the Code is available for inspection at any Workers' Compensation Appeals Board office. A copy of the Code may be obtained for the cost or reproduction (\$2.00) by writing to:

Division of Workers' Compensation
455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Please make you \$2.00 check or money order payable to "Division of Workers' Compensation."

If you have evidence that a Worker's Compensation Administrative Law Judge has violated the Code of Judicial Ethics, you may complain either to:

The Presiding Workers' Compensation Judge
at the Workers' Compensation Board district office
where the judge is employed;

or to:

Workers' Compensation Ethics Advisory Committee
Department of Industrial Relations
P.O. Box 420603
San Francisco, CA 94142

The Workers' Compensation Ethics Advisory Committee is an independent state committee. The Committee receives and monitors complaints against Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judges.

Complaints must be in writing and must allege **specific conduct** which violates the Code. If you wish, you may use a complaint form which is available free at every Appeals Board office.

Examples of Code violations are abusive conduct (e.g. threats, harassment, profanity), expressions of bias or prejudice, accepting a payment or gift from a litigant, intoxication, etc.

A ruling by a judge – no matter how wrong that ruling is – is not by itself an ethical violation. If you think the Judge made a wrong decision in your case, you should consult with a lawyer or an Information & Assistance Officer. You may have the right to file a petition for reconsideration or to seek some other legal remedy to correct the wrong ruling.

Note: Filing a complaint with the Ethics Advisory Committee is NOT a Petition for Reconsideration or Appeal of an Award or Order.

If you have a complaint against

An Attorney

Complaints against attorneys -- either your own or your opponent's -- may be addressed to:

The State Bar of California
555 Franklin Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(800) 843-9053

An Insurance Company

Department of Insurance or Audit Unit

Department of Insurance
Claims Service
300 So. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(800) 927-4357
(213) 987-8921

Division of Workers' Compensation
Audit Unit
2424 Arden Way, Suite 305
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 263-2710

A Physician

Medical Board of California or Industrial Medical Council

Department of Consumer Affairs
Medical Board of California
1426 Howe Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95825
(800) 633-2322
(Toll Free Complaint Line)

If your complaint concerns a Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME):

Industrial Medical Council
P. O. Box 8888
So. San Francisco, CA 94128
(800) 794-6900